

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action mailed on May 25, 2006. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 11-16 are pending in the patent application. Claim 9 has been amended. Claims 11, 12, 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by this response.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,739,271 to Hancock ("*Hancock*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,150,630 to Pokorny et al. ("*Pokorny*"). Applicants disagree with and traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a display device that includes a first member including a tabletop having a transparent portion and a second member arranged to cooperate with the first member to define an interior space for holding a display article. The first and second members are arranged to selectively engage together or disengage using a lockable operating means that is operable from a position outside the interior space. The first and second members are engaged together using two opposing retaining means that each include a flange and a mating aperture or opening. At least one of the flanges is moveable between an engaged and a disengaged position. The operating means includes a rotary lock barrel which is arranged to rotate a cam; where the rotation of the came causes lateral movement of the locking bar upon which one of the flanges is disposed. Neither *Hancock*, *Pokorny* nor the combination of these references disclose or suggest such subject matter.

Hancock is directed to an advertising table that includes a tabletop defining an internal cavity. A tabletop 2 is hingedly connected to an anchor plate 4 so that a user can move the tabletop between an open position as shown in Fig. 2 and a closed position as shown in Fig. 3. The table includes a first locking member 10 and a second locking member 12 that engage

another first locking member 10 and second locking member 12 to prevent the anchor plate from moving (Col. 3, lines 23-30). The first and second locking members are deactivated to gain access to the cavity and activated to lock the first and second locking members together. *Hancock* does not disclose or suggest “operating means including a rotary lock barrel which is arranged to rotate a cam” where the “rotation of the cam causes lateral movement of a locking bar upon which one of the flanges is disposed,” as in the claimed invention.

Pikorny does not remedy the deficiencies of *Hancock*. *Pikorny* is directed to a portable stage that includes a plurality of interlocking members. (See the Abstract). The members include male lock parts 63-66 and female lock parts 67-70. The male lock parts include a wheel 82 that is rotated into an indentation 87 of the female lock part to lock these parts together. *Pikorny* does not disclose or suggest a rotary lock barrel that is arranged to rotate a cam where the rotation of the cam causes lateral movement of a locking bar upon which one of the flanges is disposed.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the combination of *Hancock* and *Pikorny* does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Hancock* and *Pikorny* and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hancock* in view of *Pikorny* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,603,410 to Kara (“Kara”). Applicants disagree with and traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 11, 12, and 13. Specifically, amended claim 9 is directed to a display arrangement including a tabletop having an interior space and a transparent portion for viewing an article. The article includes an information bearing sheet and a three-dimensional object where the bearing sheet includes a cut-

out portion through which the object may be viewed. The display arrangement also includes a supporting means that is biased by a compressible material towards the transparent portion.

The combination of *Hancock*, *Pikorny* and *Kara* does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 9. In the Final Office Action, the Patent Office states that the combination of *Hancock* and *Pikorny* discloses all the elements of the claimed invention except for a compressible material that biases a supporting means towards the transparent portion. The Patent Office therefore relies on *Kara* to teach the compressible material.

Applicants fail to see where *Kara* discloses such a compressible material. First, *Kara* does not disclose or suggest any type of compressible material for biasing a support towards the transparent surface of the display case. It appears that the Patent Office believes that the loop sections 201 bias a displayed article towards the transparent surface of the display case. However, the loop sections 201 are attached to the product 102 and the material 109. The loop sections 201 are used to hold the product 102 in place. *Kara* does not disclose or suggest that the loop sections 201 or any other material is used to bias the product 102 or any other item on display in the display case toward the top or lid 104 of the box. Also, as shown in Fig. 2, the product 102 is not positioned near the transparent panel 110 in the lid 104.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that amended claim 9 and the claims that depend therefrom, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Hancock*, *Pikorny* and *Kara*. Therefore, Applicants submit that amended claim 9 and claims 14 and 15, which depend from amended claim 9, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Hancock*, *Pikorny* and *Kara* and in condition for allowance.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 14-16 are patentable over the art of record because the cited art does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 14-16 be deemed allowable at this time and that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 9-7-06

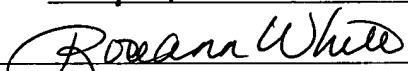

Christopher S. Hermanson, Reg. No. 48,244

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP
131 S. Dearborn St., Suite 2400
Chicago, Illinois 60603-5577
Telephone: (312) 460-5000
Facsimile: (312) 460-7000

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RoseAnn White